

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 127474
ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-11 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15 CEQ-01
OES-07 SS-15 /144 R

DRAFTED BY PM/DCA:SESTEINER:EJQ
APPROVED BY PM - MR. KAHAN
NSC:RPUTNAM
ACDA:REINHORN (INFO)
EUR/RPM:MLBRECKON

-----024629 190140Z /62

O P 190041Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 127474

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PARM, UNGA, GW, UK

SUBJECT: UNSSOD--NEGATIVE SECURITY ASSURANCES

REFS: (A) STATE 123851, (B) USNATO 4930

1. PM DEPUTY DIRECTOR KAHAN CALLED IN (SEPARATELY) FRG
EMBASSY COUNSELOR VONPFETTEN AND UK FIRST SECRETARY REEVE
TO PROVIDE THEM WITH FOLLOWING INSTRUCTED TALKING POINTS
ON NEGATIVE SECURITY ASSURANCES:

--THE ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED NOT TO PUT FORWARD A NEW
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 127474

PROPOSAL ON NEGATIVE SECURITY ASSURANCES IN THE SSOD.

--WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE POSITION ON THIS ISSUE
THAT PRESIDENT CARTER ANNOUNCED IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE UNGA
IN OCTOBER 1977.

--WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN WORKING WITH US ON

THIS MATTER.

--THE U.S. WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE NEGATIVE SECURITY ASSURANCES FORMULA PROPOSED BY THE UK. WE WOULD PREFER THAT THE UK NOT OFFER SUCH AN INITIATIVE. IF THE UK DECIDES TO GO FORWARD, WE WOULD HOPE THAT IT WOULD DO SO IN A WAY

THAT WOULD NOT PUT PRESSURE ON THE U.S. TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THAT PARTICULAR FORMULATION.

(NOTE: FOURTH TALKING POINT WAS PROVIDED TO VON PFETTEN WHEN HE ASKED HOW WE WOULD RESPOND TO UK INITIATIVE.)

2. IN RESPONSE TO POINTS MADE BY KAHAN, VON PFETTEN ASKED WHETHER WE INTENDED TO REINTRODUCE THE PRESIDENT'S FORMULATION AT THE SSOD OR SIMPLY REFER TO HIS STATEMENT. KAHAN REPLIED THAT THIS IS A QUESTION OF TACTICS WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED, BUT WE WILL BE GUIDED ON THE SUBSTANCE BY THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT. VON PFETTEN ASKED WHAT PROMPTED U.S. DECISION. KAHAN SAID MANY FACTORS WERE INVOLVED AND THAT AFTER CAREFUL REFLECTION WE DECIDED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S OCTOBER STATEMENT WAS A FULLY ADEQUATE FORMULATION ON THIS ISSUE. IN THE PROCESS, WE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED VARIOUS OTHER POSSIBLE FORMULAS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INTEREST OF THE NON-ALIGNED STATES, THE WORK OF THE BARTON GROUP AND, OF COURSE, THE PROPOSED UK FORMULATION.

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 127474

LATION. KAHAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE VERY FACT THAT WE COULD ENGAGE IN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH OUR KEY ALLIES ON AN ISSUE WITH SO MANY IMPLICATIONS IS ITSELF A SIGN OF A HEALTHY ALLIANCE AND, PARTICULARLY, OF EFFECTIVE U.S.-UK-FRG TRILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. VON PFETTEN STATED IN CLOSING THAT THIS QUESTION DOES INDEED HAVE MANY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FRG, AND THAT OUR DECISION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY "MAKE IT EASIER" FOR BONN BY REMOVING NECESSITY TO DECIDE ON SUCH AN ISSUE.

3. REEVE'S RESPONSE WAS TO SEEK CLARIFICATION AS TO WHETHER WE WERE ASKING UK NOT TO PROCEED WITH AN INITIATIVE ON THIS ISSUE. KAHAN EXPLAINED VERY CAREFULLY THAT THIS DECISION WAS PURELY ONE FOR UK TO MAKE AS DETERMINATION OF ITS OWN NATIONAL POLICY, ALTHOUGH OUR PREFERENCE IS THAT UK NOT DO SO. HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT IF BRITISH DO DECIDE TO GO FORWARD, WE HOPE THEIR FORMULATION WILL BE EXPRESSED IN TERMS WHICH PUT NO PRESSURE ON US SINCE, IF OBLIGED TO COMMENT, WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE UK FORMULATION. REEVE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW LONDON WOULD REACT. HIS LAST READING WAS THAT UK REMAINED UNDECIDED AS TO WHAT COURSE TO TAKE IF U.S. DECIDED

NOT TO ADVANCE OR SUPPORT SUCH AN INITIATIVE. HE ASSURED US THAT U.S. VIEWS WOULD CERTAINLY BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE SOME DISAPPOINTMENT IN LONDON BUT SINCE HE HAD KEPT FCO INFORMED OF STATE OF OUR THINKING ON THIS ISSUE, OUR DECISION "WOULD NOT BE ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED."

4. BEGIN FYI. THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE FOLLOW-UP TO

EARLIER INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH FRG AND UK EMB-ASSIES, AND WITH VISITING FRG DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER RUTH, IN WHICH DEPARTMENT AND ACDA OFFICERS INFORMED THEM THAT USG WAS GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THIS ISSUE BUT HAD NOT YET MADE DECISION. THEY WERE INFORMED THAT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 127474

U.S. WOULD EITHER ADHERE TO PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT OF LAST OCTOBER OR POSSIBLY BUILD SOMEWHAT UPON THAT STATEMENT. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT SEVERAL ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS WERE BEING CONSIDERED IN EVENT THAT LATTER COURSE WERE FOLLOWED, AND ONE SUCH POSSIBLE FORMULATION WAS PRESENTED INFORMALLY TO FRG AND UK OFFICIALS. END FYI.

5. FOR USNATO: MISSION SHOULD INFORM ALLIANCE OF THIS DECISION, FOLLOWING UP MAY 16 NAC DISCUSSION OF SSOD ISSUES (REFTELS). IN DOING SO, MISSION MAY DRAW AT ITS DISCRETION ON FIRST THREE TALKING POINTS IN PARA 1 ABOVE, BUT SHOULD USE POINT ON UK FORMULA ONLY ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS.

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